GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3351
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
ALLOCATION OF BLOCKS UNDER NEW EXPLORTION TO PRIVATE COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise number of blocks allocated to private companies under new exploration licensing policy;

(b) the reasons for their allocation alongwith the details of the rules under which the said blocks have been allocated to private companies ;

(c) the number of companies out of them which have so far not started production alongwith the details of the action to be taken by the Government when no production is carried out; and

(d) the names of the companies against which action has been taken in this regard during the last three years ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Total of 21 onland exploration blocks have been awarded to various private companies as operator under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far. Of them, 7 are in Assam, 3 each in Gujarat and Rajasthan, 2 each in Uttar Pradesh , Tamilnadu and Maharashtra and one each in Mizoram,and Andhra Pradesh .

(b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, approved by the Cabinet in 1997, blocks have been awarded through international competitive bidding with transparent terms and conditions for intensified exploration of the Indian sedimentary basin.

(c) The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed between Government of India and Contractors for carrying out exploration activities in the block as per exploration work commitment. As a result of exploration, if any oil/gas discoveries are made in the block, then contractor further develop those discoveries in given time frame as per terms of PSC.

So far commercial production of gas has commenced from one block namely CB-ONN-2000/2 operated by M/s Niko @ 0.3 MMSCMD gas.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.